

May 1, 1975

got, make more income off them if they want; or use it to distribute to the school children of the state, which they claim they wanted to do which is why they needed more money. Don't start buying lands that probably will cost as much as they got for all the lands in the East when they gave them away hundreds of years ago, or whatever. Three quarters of a million dollars. I bet if you start going back and checking the records they probably didn't get 3/4 of a million dollars for a good portion of that land in Douglas and Sarpe County. I just don't think the bill is anything you want to be moving forward with.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm sorry that Senator DeCamp feels omitted from the discussion of this bill, that he's uninformed. This bill was placed before the Appropriations Committee in a little different format. The Appropriations Committee saw fit to do this and I think properly so. Had this gone, originally this matter, it might have been before the committee of which you are vice chairman. However, we're not trying to rob anyone here, Senator DeCamp. Contrary to what you say the school lands of Eastern Nebraska were sold in the early 1900's. The price of land at that time, as I'm sure you'll agree, was not specifically high as it is today because we all know that land has a tremendous value as an indicator of wealth. If I had known you had these concerns I would have visited with you about it. I did lay before you, and I think you must admit that's a rather comprehensive view of what the proposal is. I think it's very candid. Nothing is trying . . . we are trying to hide nothing. We believe that this land will be school land. Sure I know we own 1,200,000 acres in the State of Nebraska, but that was given for the purpose of school lands and for boys and girls in education. You know that as well as I do. You've been around too long to know differently, or to say differently. I feel very badly that people here would feel at this time that they'd want to indefinitely postpone this bill. I think most of the Senators on this floor understand, and I think they have implecit trust in this organization to manage along with the cooperation of the Metropolitan Educational Programs Agency.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, I'd like to direct a question to either Senator Koch or Senator DeCamp, whoever would care to answer. Senator Koch, may I direct a question to you sir?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes sir.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: As I understand it these funds come from the trust of the Educational Lands and Funds Board.

SENATOR KOCH: That's correct sir.